



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 29, 2002

S. 2037

Science and Technology Emergency Mobilization Act

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on May 17, 2002*

SUMMARY

S. 2037 would authorize the President to establish a national emergency technology guard and a national clearinghouse for emergency prevention and response technology. In addition, the bill would authorize the implementation of a pilot program in seven states to make the communications systems used by fire, law enforcement, and emergency preparedness and response agencies compatible.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$70 million over the 2003-2007 period. S. 2037 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

S. 2037 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would provide \$35 million in grants to states in fiscal year 2003 for pilot programs designed to plan and implement interoperable communications systems.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2037 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 450 (community and regional development).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007

CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Estimated Authorization Level	46	10	5	5	5
Estimated Outlays	10	34	16	5	5

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 2037 will be enacted by the start of fiscal year 2003 and the necessary funds will be appropriated for each year. Based on information from the Office of Management and Budget and historical spending patterns of similar programs, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2037 would cost \$70 million over the 2003-2007 period. The bill would authorize \$5 million in both 2003 and 2004 for the national emergency technology guard (to be known as NET Guard). CBO assumes that these funds would be spent on salaries and related expenses for establishing, managing, and training a team of volunteers to help federal agencies counter terrorism.

S. 2037 would authorize the establishment of a Center for Civilian Homeland Security Technology Evaluation. Based on information from similar programs, such as the Technical Support Working Group and the Office of Science and Technology Policy, CBO estimates that the center would cost about \$5 million each year.

In addition, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$35 million to conduct pilot projects in seven states to improve communications among first responders (fire, police, emergency preparedness) at the local level. CBO estimates that this provision would cost \$35 million over the 2003-2007 period, based on historical spending patterns of similar programs.

Finally, S. 2037 would direct the President to report on wireless communications capabilities of first responders and the barriers faced by federal agencies to accepting in-kind donations of technology and services during emergencies. CBO estimates those reports would cost about \$1 million.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 2037 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would provide \$35 million in grants to states in fiscal year 2003 for pilot programs designed to plan and implement interoperable communications systems.

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